

WIDOW OF THE LATE SAMUEL F. MILLER.

JANUARY 29, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Cox, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1582.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1582) to pay to the widow of the late Samuel F. Miller, a Justice of the Supreme Court, a sum equal to the balance of his salary for the year in which he died, submit the following report:

That the widow of the late Justice Miller was left at the death of her husband in very straitened circumstances. Unlike many gentlemen who have been elevated to the bench of the highest court in the nation, Justice Miller was obliged to rely upon his salary for the support of himself and family, and this resource, with the large expenses incident to his position, was too limited to permit him to lay aside anything for his own declining years or for his family after his decease. His widow has the title to an unpretentious house on Massachusetts avenue, on which there is a mortgage for \$10,000, nearly its market value, and on which the annual taxes amount to \$300. She is now renting the property to a member of this House, furnished, at a very low rent, in order to realize money for her own support.

The Justices of the Supreme Court are excluded by the proprieties of their position from all opportunities of earning income other than their official salaries; and this ought to be so, in order that their whole attention may be given to the responsible duties devolved upon them by the incumbency of the high office which they hold.

The expenses incident to the position are very great, and a wise policy dictates a spirit of liberality, to the end that the highest order of professional ability may not be debarred from the office by the fear that the family dependent upon the incumbent may after his decease come to want.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

